

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending in this application.

35 USC § 103 (a)

Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) in view of US 4,670,373, compound No. 23, col. 6. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Compound 23 in US 4,670,373 is explicitly excluded by proviso in the instant invention. Examiner states adjacent homologues are considered obvious absent unexpected results. The present invention is directed to photolabile compounds, which generate an acid upon irradiation with light. US 4,670,373 describes compounds, which cleave to release an acid upon the action of heat. See for example, US 4,670,373, column 1, lines 57-63 which reads *"...object is to provide a novel acid precursor which is very stable at ordinary temperature and when it is heated above a certain temperature [...] releases an acid to neutralize the base..."* - and column 2, lines 66-67: *"When heated, the acid precursor of this invention releases a carboxylic acid derivative..."*

Nothing in US 4,670,373 gives a hint to the fact, that similar oxime ester compounds can work as acid generators, releasing the acid upon irradiation with light. Accordingly, the person skilled in the art would not obviously deduce this property for said compounds from the teachings according to the cited prior art. The Applicants request that the 103(a) rejection be withdrawn and reconsideration is requested in light of the remarks above.

Since there are no other grounds of objection or rejection, passage of this application to issue with claims 1-3 is earnestly solicited.

In the event that minor amendments will further prosecution, Applicants request that the examiner contact the undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Petition for a one month extension

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